

Amendments to the Claims

1-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for providing pressure support to a subject, the apparatus comprising:

a gas flow generating system adapted to provide a flow of gas;

monitoring means for monitoring a characteristic associated with a breathing cycle of the subject;

controlling means for determining an average intrinsic positive end-expiratory pressure over a plurality of breathing cycles based on an output of the monitoring means, and for controlling the gas flow generating system such that a pressure of the flow of gas delivered to the subject during at least a portion of an expiratory phase of a breathing cycle substantially corresponds to the average intrinsic positive end-expiratory pressure.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the controlling means controls the gas flow generating system such that the pressure of the flow of gas delivered to the subject during at least a portion of an inspiratory phase of a breathing cycle is at a pressure greater than the average intrinsic positive end-expiratory pressure.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the gas flow generating system includes a blower motor, and wherein the controlling means controls the pressure provided by that gas flow generating system by controlling an operating speed of the blower motor.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the monitoring means is located proximate to an airway of the subject.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20, further comprising:
a patient circuit having a first end operatively connected to the gas flow generating system and a second end; and

a patient interface operatively connected to the second end of the patient circuit, and wherein the monitoring means is operatively connected to the patient interface.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the monitoring means is connected to the controlling means by a wire.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the monitoring means includes means for transmitting a wireless signal to the controlling means, and wherein the controlling means includes receiving means for receiving the wireless signal.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the monitoring means is a pressure transducer.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the apparatus is portable and is adapted for use by an ambulatory subject.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the gas flow generating system comprises an electrically powered blower motor.

27. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for providing pressure support to a subject, the apparatus comprising:

a gas flow generating system adapted to provide a flow of gas
monitoring means for monitoring a characteristic associated with a breathing cycle of a subject;

controlling means for controlling the pressure of the flow of gas provided by the gas flow generating system;

a patient circuit having a first end operatively connected to the gas flow generating system and a second end;

a patient interface operatively connected to the second end of the patient circuit;
and

an exhaust valve operatively coupled to the patient interface so as to communicate an interior of the patient interface to ambient atmosphere through at least a portion of the patient interface, wherein the exhaust valve is operable under control of the controlling means to control a pressure of the flow of gas in the patient interface.

28. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the valve is a pressure regulating valve.

29. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the gas flow generating system includes a blower motor, and wherein the controlling means controls the pressure provided by that gas flow generating system by controlling an operating speed of the blower motor.

30. (Previously Presented) A method for relieving dyspnoea in a subject, the method comprising the steps of:

delivering a flow of gas to an airway of a subject at a pressure greater than ambient;

determining an intrinsic positive end-expiratory pressure of the subject over a plurality of breathing cycles; and

controlling the pressure of the flow of gas delivered to the subject during an expiratory phase of a breathing cycle such that the pressure of the flow of gas substantially corresponds to an average intrinsic positive end-expiratory pressure.